Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-20 FDRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 (ISO) W

O R 020847Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9857
INFO CINCPAC PRIORITY
COMNAVFORKOREA SEOUL PRIORITY
COMUSKOREA SEOUL PRIORITY
COMSEVENTHFLT PRIORITY

COMNAVMARIANAS GUAM MARIANAS ISLANDS PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 3148

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SREF, KS, VS

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAM REFUGEES

REF: STATE 097854; SEOUL 3026

SUMMARY: ROKG REQUESTS THAT 363 VIETNAMESE NOW ENROUTE TO KOREA ABOARD KOREAN LSTS BE INTEGRATED INTO US RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

1. MOFA ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS KIM
CHONG-TAE FORMERLY ASKED DCM MAY 2 TO ARRANGE TO HAVE 363
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES INTEGRATED INTO UNITED STATES
RESETTLEMENT EFFORT. REFUGEES ARE CURRENTLY ABOARD ROK LSTS
810 AND 815 ENROUTE FROM VIETNAM WITH ETA PUSAN MAY 12.
LSTS ARE CARRYING TOTAL OF 1364 REFUGEES, OF WHICH 541 ARE ROK
CITIZENS (INCLUDING UNDETERMINED NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE
WIVES AND CHILDREN NATURALIZED BY VIRTUE OF MARRIAGE) AND 823
ARE VIETNAMESE NATIONALS. OF LATTER FIGURE 460 HAVE BEEN
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DETERMINED TO BE "DEFACTO WIVES AND CHILDREN" OF KOREANS.

THESE PEOPLE WOULD HAVE SOME CLAIM OF FAMILY TYPE IN KOREA. REMAINING 363, HOWEVER, HAVE NO RELATIONSHIP OR TIES TO KOREA.

- 2. KIM HAD NO IDEA CONCERNING COMPOSITION OF LATTER GROUP OR HOW THEY CAME TO BE ABOARD ROK LSTS. IN VIEW THEIR LACK OF TIES AND DIFFICULTIES ANY VIETNAMESE WOULD HAVE WITH KOREAN CLIMATE AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE, ROKG FEELS THEY COULD NOT BE ASSIMILATED AND WOULD PROBABLY REPRESENT PERMANENT BURDEN ON KOREAN SOCIAL WELFARE AGENCIES.
- 3. RECALLING THAT UNITED STATES HAD SUGGESTED USE OF ROK TERRITORY FOR STAGING AREA, KIM SAID THAT ROKG HOPED THAT U.S. WOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE GROUP OF 363 TRANSFERRED TO GUAM AS PART OF OVERALL RESETTLEMENT EFFORT.
- 4. DCM REVIEWED INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED REF A, EMPHASIZING THAT USG'S INTENT WAS THAT REFUGEES ARRIVING IN THIRD COUNTRIES SHOULD SEEK RESETTLEMENT THROUGH UNHCR OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. HE AGREED, HOWEVER, TO SEEK INSTRUCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO ROKG REQUEST. ACTION REQUESTED: INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPLY. SNEIDER

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